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Responsive to Office Action mailed on 18 October 2006

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following complete set of claims replaces the previous set of claims.

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:
- a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a liquid impervious backsheet;
 - an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet; and
 - a dehydration indicator comprising a chemical indicating composition providing a visible signal indicative of a level of dehydration in response to an ionic strength of urine exuded into the diaper by a wearer, the dehydration indicator further comprising an alphanumeric character indicative of the level of dehydration and a translucent cover masking the signal when the ionic strength is below the threshold, the signal becoming visible through the cover when the ionic strength exceeds the threshold.
22. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 21 wherein the visible signal is provided only when the ionic strength exceeds a predetermined threshold.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 22 wherein the dehydration indicator comprises a second chemical indicating composition providing a second visible signal only when the ionic strength exceeds a second predetermined threshold.
25. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 24 wherein the visible signals have different colors, different shapes, or both different colors and different shapes.

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26. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim 21 wherein the ~~indicating composition comprises nitrilo tris (methylenephosphonic acid), 2 (N-morpholine)-ethanesulfonic acid, bis (aminoethyl) glycol ether N,N,N',N' tetraacetic acid, maleic anhydride/methylvinylether copolymer in its free acid form, ethyleneglycol-bis[aminoethyl ether] tetraacetic acid, or combinations thereof~~ dehydration indicator comprises a second chemical indicating composition providing a second visible signal indicative of a second level of dehydration in response to the ionic strength.
27. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim 26 ~~wherein the indicating composition further comprises bromothymol blue~~ 21 further comprising a fluid transport element in fluid communication with the dehydration indicator and serving to transport the urine to the dehydration indicator.
28. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 21 wherein the visible signal appears as a colored shape juxtapositioned with the alphanumeric character.
29. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 21 wherein the dehydration indicator further comprises a colored zone juxtapositioned with the alphanumeric character.
30. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 29 wherein the dehydration indicator comprises a second colored zone juxtapositioned with a second alphanumeric character, the colored zones and alphanumeric characters together forming a color key for the visible signal.
31. (Currently Amended) ~~The disposable diaper of Claim 21 wherein the dehydration indicator comprises at least a second alphanumeric character.~~ A disposable diaper comprising:
a liquid pervious topsheet;
a liquid impervious backsheet;
an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet; and
a dehydration indicator comprising a chemical indicating composition providing a visible signal indicative of a level of dehydration in response to an ionic strength of urine

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exuded into the diaper by a wearer, the dehydration indicator comprising at least two alphanumeric characters indicative of the level of dehydration, the alphanumeric characters together forming a word descriptive of the level of dehydration.

32. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim ~~[[21]]~~ 31 wherein the ~~dehydration indicator comprises a second chemical indicating composition providing a second visible signal indicative of a second level of dehydration in response to~~ is provided only when the ionic strength exceeds a predetermined threshold.
33. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim ~~[[32]]~~ 31 wherein the visible signals ~~have different colors, different shapes, or both different colors and different shapes~~ signal appears as a colored shape juxtapositioned with the alphanumeric characters.
34. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim ~~21~~ wherein the dehydration indicator is affixed to the topsheet 31 further comprising a fluid transport element in fluid communication with the dehydration indicator and serving to transport the urine to the dehydration indicator.
35. (Currently Amended) ~~The disposable diaper of Claim 21~~ A disposable diaper comprising:
a liquid pervious topsheet;
a liquid impervious backsheet;
an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet; and
a dehydration indicator comprising a chemical indicating composition providing a visible signal indicative of a level of dehydration in response to an ionic strength of urine exuded into the diaper by a wearer, the dehydration indicator further comprising an alphanumeric character indicative of the level of dehydration,
wherein the chemical indicating composition is covered on the entirety of its wearer-facing surface by a semipermeable membrane formed of cellulose acetate, cellulose diacetate, cellulose triacetate, agar acetate, beta glucan acetate, polymeric epoxides, semipermeable polyurethanes, or semipermeable polyglycolic acid.

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36. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim [[21]] 35 further comprising a fluid transport element in fluid communication with the dehydration indicator and serving to transport the urine to the dehydration indicator.
37. (Previously Presented) A disposable diaper comprising:
a liquid pervious topsheet;
a liquid impervious backsheet;
an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet; and
a dehydration indicator comprising a chemical indicating composition providing a visible signal indicative of a level of dehydration in response to an ionic strength of urine exuded into the diaper by a wearer, the visible signal forming an alphanumeric character indicative of the level of dehydration.
38. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 37 wherein the visible signal is provided only when the ionic strength exceeds a predetermined threshold.
39. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 37 wherein the dehydration indicator comprises a second chemical indicating composition providing a second visible signal only when the ionic strength exceeds a second predetermined threshold, the second visible signal forming a second alphanumeric character.
40. (Cancelled)
41. (New) The disposable diaper of Claim 37 further comprising a fluid transport element in fluid communication with the dehydration indicator and serving to transport the urine to the dehydration indicator.
42. (New) The disposable diaper of Claim 35 wherein the visible signal is provided only when the ionic strength exceeds a predetermined threshold.

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43. (New) The disposable diaper of Claim 35 wherein the visible signal appears as a colored shape juxtapositioned with the alphanumeric character.
44. (New) The disposable diaper of Claim 35 further comprising a fluid transport element in fluid communication with the dehydration indicator and serving to transport the urine to the dehydration indicator.